United Nations S/2016/369

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 April 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 20 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to the letter dated 6 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/325), requesting the circulation of the letter of an entity engaged in crimes and violence in Syria, I wish to bring the following to your attention:

I strongly reject the allegations against my Government contained in the above-mentioned letter, as the presence of Iranian military advisers in the Syrian Arab Republic is upon the request of the legitimate Syrian Government and in order to help in fighting designated terrorist groups who are responsible for the killing of innocent people. These allegations are unfounded and politically motivated to divert attention away from combating terrorists and violent extremists and can amount to attempts to cover up support for these elements.

The very act of submitting such baseless propaganda by a Member State against other Member States and requesting that it be circulated as a United Nations document runs counter to the very purposes and principles of the United Nations, which consist, inter alia, of developing friendly relations among nations and peacefully resolving international disputes. This act also amounts to misusing an established practice at the United Nations and employing it in the service of spreading lies and distorting facts.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always warned against terrorism and violent extremism and the provision of support to extremists in the region. Following the savagery and barbaric crimes perpetrated against the Syrian and Iraqi peoples by extremist groups, and considering the fact that insecurity and instability do not recognize borders, it is imperative that all United Nations Member States adopt a responsible and serious approach to focus on real challenges that jeopardize peace and security in our region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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